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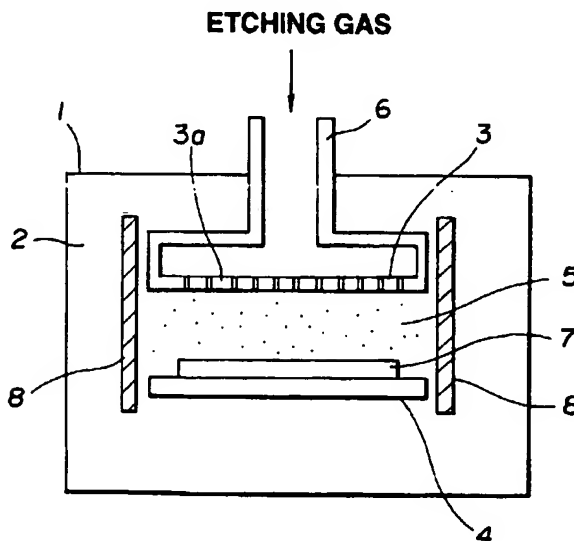
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(54) Plasma processing system and protective member used for the same

(57) Disclosed is a protective member (8) for a plasma processing system, which is disposed in a plasma processing chamber containing two plasma generating electrodes (3,4) for forming a plasma region between the electrodes, on the side of each of the two electrodes

in such a manner as to cover the plasma region, characterized in that at least a surface of the protective member on the plasma region side is formed of a glassy carbon material, whereby prolonging the service life of the protective member and suppressing the generation of dust from the electrodes.

FIG.1



Description

The present invention relates to a plasma processing system such as a plasma etching system or a plasma CVD system, e.g. used for production of semiconductor integrated circuits, such as LSIs or ICs, or waveguides for optical communication, and a protective member used for the plasma processing system.

In recent years, a plasma processing technique, such as a plasma etching technique or a plasma CVD technique, capable of forming a finer pattern on a wafer at a high accuracy has come to be increasingly important along with the advance of techniques for producing semiconductor integrated circuits with finer geometries and higher densities.

An electrode used for such a plasma processing technique has been made of aluminum, graphite, glassy carbon, metal silicon or quartz.

On the other hand, parts of a plasma processing system, such as a chamber or a member called "depo-shield" (protective member), have been generally made of aluminum, and in recent years, to meet requirements for high integration of semiconductors, these parts made of aluminum have come to be further subjected to surface treatment by anodic oxidation.

Incidentally, in the case of processing a wafer by plasma etching or the like, the adhesion of dust on the surface of the wafer is undesirable. Such dust has been considered to result from scattering of particles of electrodes when the electrodes are eroded and consumed by plasma, and attempts have been made to suppress the generation of dust from electrodes. However, as a result of various examinations made by the present inventor, it has been found that such dust is caused not only by electrodes but also by a plasma processing system itself.

Specifically, although a chamber or a protective member of a plasma processing system is made of aluminum as described, it is possibly brought in direct contact with plasma and also exposed to a corrosive gas to be thereby damaged, and such damage of the chamber or protective member causes the generation of dust in addition to the shortened service life. Therefore, it would be desirable to develop a new material for a chamber or a protective member capable of suppressing the damage thereof for preventing the generation of dust.

Preferred embodiments of the present invention may provide a plasma processing system and a protective member used for the plasma processing system, which are capable of suppressing the generation of particles (dust) and prolonging the service life.

According to a first aspect of the present invention, there is provided a plasma processing system including a plasma processing chamber in which plasma generating electrodes are disposed, characterized in that at least a surface of an internal portion, exposed to plasma, of the plasma processing chamber excluding the electrodes is formed of a glassy carbon material.

According to a second aspect of the present invention, there is provided a protective member for a plasma processing system, which is disposed in use in a plasma processing chamber containing two plasma generating electrodes for forming a plasma region between the electrodes, on the side of each of the two electrodes in such a manner as to cover the plasma region, characterized in that at least a surface of the protective member on the plasma region side is formed of a glassy carbon material.

The plasma processing system of the present invention, which is applicable for various types of plasma processing systems for processing workpieces by plasma, such as a plasma etching system or a plasma CVD system, is advantageous in that since at least a surface of a portion exposed to plasma, for example, a chamber wall surface or a plasma exposure portion of a protective member is formed of a glassy carbon material, it is suppressed from being eroded or damaged by plasma, as a result of which it is possible to prolong the service life thereof and also to suppress the generation of particles (dust) and hence to desirably prevent the adhesion of dust on a workpiece such as a wafer upon plasma etching.

In addition, as for the formation of a portion exposed to plasma of a glassy carbon material, the entire member including the portion exposed to plasma may be formed of a glassy carbon material, although it is desired in terms of cost that the main body of the member is formed of a different material such as aluminum and the portion exposed to plasma or the entire member is covered with a glassy carbon material. Even when the main body of the member is made of aluminum, the member can be positively prevented from being eroded or damaged by plasma by covering at least a portion exposed to plasma with the glassy carbon material.

The present invention disclosed herein will be understood better with reference to the following drawing of which: Fig. 1 is a schematic view showing one embodiment of the present invention.

An embodiment of the present invention will be described with reference to the accompanying drawing.

Fig. 1 shows a plasma etching system to which the present invention is applied. In this figure, reference numeral 1 indicates a main body of the processing system containing a plasma processing chamber 2. In this plasma processing chamber 2, two plasma generating electrodes 3, 4 are oppositely spaced at a specified distance, and a plasma region 5 is formed between both the electrodes 3, 4. An etching gas feed pipe 6 is connected to one electrode (upper electrode) 3. An etching gas passes through the feed pipe 6, and is fed in the plasma region 5 from a plurality of etching gas communication holes 3a formed in the upper electrode 3. A workpiece 7, for example, a silicon wafer is placed on the

other electrode (lower electrode) 4. In addition, while not shown, the upper electrode 3 is connected to a high frequency power supply and the lower electrode 4 is grounded.

Protective members 8, 8 are respectively disposed outside both the electrodes 3, 4 in such a manner as to cover the plasma region 5.

In accordance with the present invention, at least a surface of each of the protective member 8, 8 on the plasma region 5 side is formed of a glassy carbon material. The protective member may be entirely formed of a glassy carbon material. Alternatively, the protective member may be formed of aluminum or the like, and the entire surface of the protective member or a surface thereof on the plasma region side may be covered with a glassy carbon material. The covering of the glassy carbon material can be performed by forming a glassy carbon material in the form of a film, and sticking the film on the target portion. The thickness of the glassy carbon film may be in a range of from 10 μm to 10 mm, preferably, in a range of from 50 μm to 6 mm.

Specific examples of source materials of the above glassy carbon material include cellulose, furfuryl alcohol, phenol resin, acetone, polycarbodiimide resin, furan resin, furfural resin, other thermosetting resins, and mixtures thereof.

The electrode may be formed of a known material, but it may be preferably formed of a glassy carbon or metal silicon. In the case of providing the protective members treated as described above, the main body of the system may be formed of a known material such as aluminum. Of course, the inner wall surface of the main body of the system may be entirely covered with a glassy carbon material, or a surface portion of the main body of the system which is possibly exposed to plasma leaked from gaps between both the electrodes and the protective members may be covered with a glassy carbon material. On the other hand, in the case where the protective members are not provided in the chamber, the entire inner wall surface of the main body of the system or a portion exposed to plasma is covered with a glassy carbon material.

The plasma etching system shown in Fig. 1 is usable for a long period of time in accordance with the normal processing manner while significantly suppressing the generation of particles (dust) because the protective members, in which the surfaces on the plasma resin side are formed of the glassy carbon material, are prevented from being eroded or damaged by plasma.

Although the description has been made with respect to the system shown in Fig. 1, such description is for illustrative purposes only, and it is to be noted that the present invention is applicable for other known processing systems and further other processing steps may be variously changed within the scope of the present invention.

EXAMPLE

The present invention will be more clearly understood with reference to the following examples:

Example 1

A protective member sample having a shape shown in Fig. 1 was prepared using a glassy carbon material (density: 1.51 g/cm³, total ash: 2 ppm) produced from phenol resin.

Example 2

A protective member sample having a shape shown in Fig. 1 was prepared by sticking a glassy carbon film (density: 1.55 g/cm³, total ash: 20 ppm, thickness: 0.35 mm) on the surface of a protective member on the plasma region side. The glassy carbon film was produced from polycarbodiimide, and the protective member was formed of aluminum, followed by anodising treatment.

Example 3

A protective member having a shape shown in Fig. 1 was prepared using a glassy carbon material (density: 1.52 g/cm³, total ash: 10 ppm) produced by furan resin.

Comparative Example 1

The protective member, which was formed of aluminum, followed by anodising treatment in Example 2, was used as a protective member sample.

Comparative Example 2

A protective member sample having a shape shown in Fig. 1 was prepared using an isotropic graphite (density:

1.85 g/cm³).

Next, each of the above protective member samples was set into the plasma etching system shown in Fig. 1 in the manner shown in Fig. 1, and an oxide film on a silicon wafer (diameter: 8 inch (20cm)) was etched by plasma using a mixed gas of trifluoromethane as a reaction gas, argon and oxygen. After this etching, the number of particles (particle size: 0.3 μ m or more) adhering on the surface of the wafer was counted. The results are shown in Table 1. In this experiment, a plasma generating electrode formed of a glassy carbon material was used as the electrode, and the main body of the system was formed of aluminum.

From the results shown in Table 1, it is revealed that each of the protective member samples in Examples 1 to 3 is significantly small in the number of particles (dust) adhering on the surface of the wafer even at the 1500-th processing, as compared with the protective member samples in Comparative Examples 1 and 2.

Table 1

	material	shape	number of particles (dust) on wafer at the 10-th processing	number of particles (dust) on wafer at the 1500-th processing
Example 1	glassy carbon	single body	4	4
Example 2	glassy carbon	stuck on surface of member (aluminum, alumite treated)	5	3
Example 3	glassy carbon	single body	3	5
Comparative Example 1	aluminum, alumite treated	single body	10	250
Comparative Example 2	isotropic graphite	single body	140	300

Claims

1. A plasma processing system including a plasma processing chamber in which plasma generating electrodes are disposed, wherein at least a surface of an internal portion, exposed to plasma, of said plasma processing chamber excluding said electrodes is formed of a glassy carbon material.
2. A protective member for a plasma processing system, which is disposed in use in a plasma processing chamber containing two plasma generating electrodes for forming a plasma region between said electrodes, on the side of each of said two electrodes in such a manner as to cover said plasma region, wherein at least a surface of said protective member on the plasma region side is formed of a glassy carbon material.
3. A plasma processing system comprising a plasma processing chamber containing two plasma generating electrodes for forming a plasma region between said electrodes, and at least one protective member as defined in claim 2 disposed at the side of said two electrodes in such a manner as to cover said plasma region.
4. A plasma processing system according to claim 3 having a pair of said protective members disposed at respective sides of said electrodes.
5. A plasma processing system according to claim 3 or claim 4 wherein at least a surface of an internal portion, exposed to plasma, of said plasma processing chamber excluding said electrodes is formed of a glassy carbon material.

FIG.1

